CECA Newsletter

Connecticut Educators Computer Association　　　　　　　**Vol. XIV No. 3**

LT. GOVERNOR RELL ADDRESSES CECA '99

Lt. Governor Jodi Rell spoke to conference attendees about her task to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure that Connecticut's schools and libraries are prepared to meet the computer and information technology needs of the 21st century. The Lt. Governor has visited many schools and libraries across the state to review their needs and will present the completed study to Governor Rowland by December. CECA has been asked for its input and to review the recommendations. Thank you Lt. Governor Rell for championing this important work.

MELODY CURREY HONORED BY CECA

Representative Melody Currey received the first CECA President's Award at CECA '99, our statewide conference, on November 1, 1999 for her long standing support of educational technology both in the legislature and as a friend to CECA. It is through her efforts that CECA has been able to hold the Legislative Technology Exposition at the Capitol Corridor for the last five years. In her remarks to the audience, Rep. Currey spoke of the need for support of technology initiatives by state and local funding. As House Deputy Majority Leader, and member of the

STRENGTH OF CECA '99 IS WITH PRESENTERS

The CECA '99 conference was held in early November. This year the actual conference was preceded by 4 hour hands-on workshops. Although the attendance at the workshops was less then hoped, those who did attend found them to be very worth while. The conference itself offered a wide variety of topics. Each year it is a challenge to meet the needs of conference attendees. A diverse spectrum of interests and abilities require a like diversity in offerings. Four tracks were offered, classroom integration - elementary and secondary, professional development, and technology management. At least one session for each track was offered at each time slot. Most attendees were pleased with the variety of offerings. The strength of our conference depends on our presenters. CECA would publicly like to thank those professionals who took the time and effort to present to their colleagues. It is no small task to put together a one hour session. But, because of these outstanding individuals, educational technology in Connecticut continues to excel. As a result students throughout the state benefit. We would like to appeal to each of you to consider becoming a presenter. Every year teachers ask for more sessions that involve classroom integration. The only way we can offer these sessions is if we can find professionals who are willing to present. If you, or someone you know, is doing something that is worth replicating, can offer new ideas, or is an innovative way to integrate technology into the curriculum, please consider it your professional responsibility to share that information with your colleagues throughout the state. Applications for presenting at CECA 2000 can be found on our web site http://www.ceca-ct.org, or you can contact Nina Hansen (nhansen@connix.com) directly. Next year will be our 20th CECA conference. Help us make it the very

INTERNET CAFÉ HAS SECOND SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Once again, SNET provided a T-1 line and Notesys provided laptops and a wireless lab for use as the popular Internet Café. The Café was a series of hands on sessions using the laptops and a wireless network to access the Internet. Presenters demonstrated sites, projects and techniques as well as providing guided learning activities for participants. This years sessions focused on developing internet based lessons by locating sites, creating web reference pages, working with graphics and integrating the web into curriculum areas.

Pan Skelly ran a session teaching participants how to narrow searching and tips for using the various types of search engines available for locating information and projects for student use.   Sally Dastoli and Donna Brown showed participants how to use the TrackStar program to create a page of links

LEARN AMISTAD PROJECT

A vital part of Connecticut's history is missing from curriculum and instruction in Connecticut's public schools. The Amistad Incident, an incident which focused Connecticut's citizenry on the value of humanity, the ethics of slavery, and the spirit of freedom, had a profound impact on the history of Connecticut and the movement to abolish slavery. The larger community has recognized the drama and far-reaching impact provided through the Amistad Incident- a movie has been produced; a replica of the vessel, currently under construction, will become a live educational museum; student interest groups have developed; and parents have demanded instruction.

LEARN (the Southeastern CT regional educational service center), in partnership with Amistad America, Mystic Seaport, The CT Historical Society, the other RESCs, and many other interested parties, has received funding from CSDE, The Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut, and the Connecticut Collaborations for Teaching the Arts and Humanities- a partnership of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, the Connecticut Humanities Council and the Eisenhower Program of the Connecticut Department of Higher Education to write, pilot, and disseminate a comprehensive Amistad Incident Curriculum for middle and high school students. The purpose of this project is to create interdisciplinary thematic lesson plans that use the Amistad Incident as a springboard to explore the many academic and social institutions and systems in our local, state, and national history. It is also a vehicle to build bridges and break down barriers among our diverse group of students by sharing and celebrating their common Connecticut heritage and history.

This four phase project has just completed phases one and two. Twenty seven middle school and high school teachers from throughout the state were selected to write the curriculum. The writers first participated in a two week Amistad Curriculum Summer Institute from 7/12/99-7/23/99. The goal of the institute was to ensure that the 27 curriculum writers had the skill, knowledge, and expertise to incorporate the richness of the Amistad Incident at the appropriate grade levels. The institute focused on the Amistad Incident, the historical context, the humanities' connections, the application to learning in a way which encourages multiple perspectives and understandings, and the application of teaching/learning strategies which use Connecticut's Frameworks and Core Competencies, as well as skills required by CAPT and CMT.

Dr. Howard Jones, historian and author of Mutiny on the Amistad, kicked off the Summer Institute with "Introduction: History of the Amistad and its Context". Throughout the two weeks, the writers also had the opportunity to work with many other experts including Dr. Robert Forbes "The Amistad: The Story Continues"- Executive Coordinator of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University; Dr. William Howe and Dr. James Johnson "Infusing a Multicultural Perspective and Appreciation of Diversity"- CSDE multicultural education consultants; Barbara Jarnagin- Mystic Seaport teacher and Terry Gillis- Milford High School, Mass.

English Teacher "Amistad and the Integrated Humanities", and Dr Andrea Kandel, Tracy Fredericks, Scott Marshall "Diversity and You"- NCCJ (The National Conference for Community and Justice). In addition, the writers also participated in workshops at the Connecticut Historical Society "Historical Sites as Context Resources" and the Mystic Seaport "Bridging the Past to the Present".

Curriculum writers then spent three weeks creating applicable grade level lesson plans. The curriculum will now be implemented into the 30 piloting teachers' classrooms throughout the state during the 1999-2000 school year to determine its effectiveness. The final phase of the project after piloting and revising will be the dissemination of the curriculum along with Statewide professional development- all of which will coincide with the Amistad's Maiden Voyage in July 2000.

Writers: Bridgeport, Bristol, Cheshire, Deep River, Groton, Hamden, Hartford, Ledyard, Montville, Monroe, New Haven, New Milford, Norwich, Stonington, Waterford, Westbrook, West Haven, Windsor

Piloters: Bridgeport, Clinton, Danbury, Deep River, Hamden, Hartford, Middletown, Milford, Monroe, New Haven, North Stonington, Norwich, Region #4, Stamford, Waterford, West Haven, Windsor

For further information, contact:

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rmigs@learn.k12.ct.us

COMING IN JANUARY

Look for

CECA Educator Recognition Award

$1000 - $3000

Teams or individuals may submit proposals for recognition of work that has or will make use of computer technology to improve the learning of students.

PATHWAYS TO FREEDOM AND FRIENDSHIP

Pathways to Freedom and Friendship's partner classes from Norwich and New Haven came together at Mystic Seaport Museum on November 4, 1999 for a day of friendship, fun and learning. The students were placed into small mixed groups to view the building of the "Amistad Freedom Schooner" at the shipyard and to participate in an information gathering scavenger hunt at the Amistad Exhibit in the Mallory Building (as shown in pictures).

INTERNET CAFÉ

for class lessons. TrackStar is a free utility and site where teachers can create and share lessons that integrate technology. John Laskarzewski and some of his students from Plainville High School worked with participants in creating simple web reference pages using programs readily available to teachers. Kelly Wynn demonstrated how web pages could be used to integrate art, content areas and technology. Participants in all sessions had opportunity to work with the presenters and experiment with techniques demonstrated during the session. Participants in all sessions found these hands on presentations valuable and fun.

RELL REPORT AVAILABLE

A brief report and press release on the Lt. Governor's recommendations on Computer Education was presented at the CECA Board meeting on Dec. 1. These recommendations will serve as the foundation for the governor's computer education initiatives in the short legislative session beginning in February. The chief goal of the policy recommendations is to make Connecticut students cyber-ready by the sixth grade.

I recommend that each professional association individual call Lisa Moody (860-524-7384) in the LT. Governor's office to request a copy of this report (via fax or e-mail). I have had the opportunity to listen at Brookfield Rotary last month, Voices for CT Children symposiums, and recently at the

INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY INTO THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CURRICULUM

Lauri Susi

Technology Applications in the Foreign Language Classroom and Beyond was a fascinating presentation conducted by Paul Acheson of the Lewis Mills High School in Burlington Connecticut. Paul, who received a Celebration of Excellent award for one of his projects, has what appeared to this participant to be an unlimited amount of ideas on how to effectively use technology to improve student learning. Many of his ideas that were developed for high school foreign language students can be modified for use in a variety of subject areas. Paul demonstrated how HyperStudio and the Internet could be used effectively to improve vocabulary development, fluency and comprehension while instilling high standards for all students. Many of his projects have motivated students to perform at high levels. One project idea used comics readily available on the Internet for student to translate, another had students creating story stacks in HyperStudio complete with testing functions. Paul also integrates video into HyperStudio to increase students' ability to interpret the language. Anyone who has an opportunity to see a presentation by Paul would be wise to attend. If only he was teaching when I took French!

Continued from previous column

CECA conference as Jodi Rell discussed this initiative with the community. In all legislative discussions this term, we each need to focus on the raised issues of the "Digital Divide" and the "Preparation of the Workforce for the 21st Century." The Connecticut Education Network and the development of students, teachers, and administrators can no longer await piecemeal efforts. This is our opportunity to finally move computer education and information technology beyond the inequalities which our children are presently offered in Connecticut school buildings.

I thank all the members of this report team, and look forward to their fruits in this holiday season. Call tomorrow please.

Charles White, CECA Board member
Bethel, CT - mailto:charliewvt@aol.com

CECA '99: VENDORS, PRIZES, AND RECIPIENTS

3M: golf balls: Bruce Williams

A & C Computer: HP Printer: Helen Mainhart

Advanced Corporate Networking: Microsoft Solutions Kit: Maria Gilchrist

AlphaSmart: an AlphSmart: Janet Wislocki

Apple Computer: Apple iMac: Lori Patrick

Aunt Goodiebags:
    1.) "Making a Hyperstudio Stack" (book): Dan DeBlois
    2.) HyperStudio Book: Choong Lan How
    3.) HyoerStudio Book: Jamie Moker

Computer Curriculum Corp.: Bag: Barbara Ajello

Curriculum Associates:
    1.) bag : Todd Mitchell
    2.) $25.00 gift certificate

Dorling Kindersley Family Library: World Explorer: Donna Brown

Educational Activities Inc. : Rock Hound (software and book): Linda Panetta

Jostens: Tomorrow's Promise: Donna McGough

K-12 Micromedia Publishing:
    1.) Microsoft Office 2000: Joan S. Keddy
    2.) Inspiration: John Laskarzewski
    3.) Art for Young Authors: Marilyn Moger
    4.) Art for Young Authors: Kathleen Lynch-Mussen

Learning Edge: Web Quest: Rick Reynolds

Learning Services:
    1.) "ClarisWorks for Teachers": Charles Chiesa
    2.) Kid Pix Deluxe: Randi Sitner

Lexmark International Inc.: Printer: Stephen Langer

Lightspan: Digital Camera: Terri Buganski

MicroWarehouse: Microsoft Office: Nancy Barger

Nordex, International Inc.: hat: Sandra Coelho

Perma Bound Books: Flanders Field (book): Arthur Skerker

Pitsco LEGO Dacta:
    1.) $25.00 Gift Certificate: Jim Honeycutt
    2.) $25.00 Gift Certificate: Linda Salvatore

R & B Enterprises:
    1.) Stereo System: Cherly Provost
    2.) Boombox: Nancy Cort

Scholastic Book Publishers: Reading Counts: Linda Baker

School Furnishings, Inc. : Insulated Mug: Kelly McCabe

Steck-Vaughn: Many Place, Friendly Places: Karen Woodford

Sunburst Software Titles: Sandra Fagan

Teacher Created Materials: Internet for Teachers and Parents: Nina Hansen

Tom Snyder Productions:
    1.) The One Computer Classroom": Jerie Milici
    2.) National Inspirer: Linda Fine

World Book, Inc.: World Book CD-ROM: Lynn Toriano

World Wise: CD Desk Cube: Priscilla Anselmo

CURREY

Education Committee, she will be working to advance legislation that will fund instructional technology in all schools throughout the state. CECA is very pleased to present Rep. Currey with the President's Award.

STRENGTH OF CECA '99

best ever. After the conference the CECA Board met to discuss the day's happenings. While there were some technical problems with modem lines, which we are hoping to solve by next conference, the overall feeling was very positive. Suggestions were made for additions to next year's conference. One area we would like to include is a spotlight on the students and their work. Our initial thoughts are to invite students to showcase what they are doing in the classroom. If your class is involved in an activity that you feel would be advantageous to share with other professionals, please consider show casing them next Fall. More information concerning this will be available during the coming year. To those of you who attended, thank you for your support. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding presentations please direct them to Nina Hansen at the above address. To those of you who did not attend, we hope you will consider us next year. Budget work is being done now in most communities, include a request to attend CECA 2000 in your next year's budget. We believe you will find it one of the most important events you will attend.

> # CECA 2000
> # November 6, 2000
> # Cromwell Radisson

Our vendors' web sites are linked from the CECA web site at www.ceca-ct.org/CECA99

New NETS Book was Released in Washington, D.C., November 18 At a national press briefing in association with the U.S. Department of Education, the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) Project will introduce a new publication likely to become an essential resource for every school in the United States. Standards don't have to feel like obstacles to overcome; they can be workable common goals. The NETS Project team does more than create standards - on November 18 they will introduce a new publication that demonstrates how technology standards can be implemented in classrooms in conjunction with national subject area standards. National Educational Technology Standards for Students - Connecting Curriculum and Technology is the product of collaboration of more than 2,000 educators who wrote, tested, and revised 36 learning activities and 8 multidisciplinary units to support classroom teachers preparing students to become technology-capable learners. Accreditation & Standards Committee NETS Web Site Download NETS Document (PDF) NCATE Web Site NCATE Standards (online) The Apple Education Seminar Series: Choosing Digital Contents to Match Your Standards

The hands-on activities focus on subject matter and show how appropriate technology can be employed as part of the learning experience. Materials for each activity include the e-mail addresses of the designers and comments by teachers who have tested the materials in classrooms. Workshop materials for professional development are also included. Connecting Curriculum and Technology is available in the for $26.95 for ISTE members and $29.95 for nonmembers. It can also be ordered through ISTE Customer Service 800.336.5191 (U.S. & Canada) 541.302.3777 (International). Initial supplies may not be sufficient to meet the expected demand. ISTE expects to be able to ship the books in quantities by December 1, 1999.

What We Do To adequately prepare our students for adult citizenship in the Information Age, computer-related technology must become a tool that students and teachers use routinely. This is one of ISTE's core goals. ISTE has consistently taken a leadership role in establishing standards for the effective use of information technology in education. ISTE's Accreditation and Standards Committee has established and regularly updated guidelines for evaluating university educational computing and technology programs in the United States. In 1996 and 1997, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education approved ISTE's programs as well as specific requirements for the following endorsements and degrees: Educational Computing and Technology Literacy Endorsement Secondary Computer Science Endorsement Secondary Computer Science Education Initial Degree Program Educational Computing and Technology Leadership Advanced Program

NETS As part of our National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) we released an initial set of Technology Foundation Standards for Students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. This is the first step in a multiyear project aimed at describing the conditions needed to support the use of technology for learning, teaching, and institutional management. Standards under development and refinement include: • Standards for using technology in learning and teaching - How technology should be used throughout the curriculum. • Educational technology support standards - Systems, access, staff development, and support services essential to support the effective use of technology. • Standards for student assessment and evaluation of technology use - Various means of assessing student progress and evaluating the use of technology in learning and teaching.

More Information For more information about topics discussed within these pages, contact:

Lajeane Thomas, NETS Project Director
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P. O. Box 3161
Ruston, LA 71272
Phone: 318.257.3923
Fax: 318.257.4916
Email: lthomas@latech.edu

International Society for Technology in Education
ISTE - Customer Service
480 Charnelton St.
Eugene, OR, 97401-2626
Phone: 800.336.5191 (U.S. and Canada)
Phone: 541.302.3777 (International)
Fax: 541.302.3778
Email: cust_svc@iste.org

FrontPage Preconference Workshop

V-TECH EQUALIZER, A REVIEW

Patricia K. Palmer

The V-Tech Equalizer was a big disappointment. Our school had hoped to find a low cost solution to assist students who do not have access to a computer at home for such activities as typing reports. We would be using it with students who have multiple needs which do not need to be compounded by a machine which we felt did not live up to the advertising.

The screen was very dark and therefore not easy to read. The mouse would not move readily. It would seem to stick and then move too far or not at all even after we adjusted its settings. It was difficult to control where the pointer was going. Another member of our staff tried it for about two minutes and gave up because he found it so frustrating.

The device does contain a word processor, a spreadsheet , a presentation maker, and other software. Due to the difficulty with the mouse and the screen darkness, this reviewer was not able to fully explore the features. It also makes some annoying sounds which it appeared could be changed, but we could not find a way to turn them off altogether.

If you are considering this device, I would strongly recommend that you obtain one on preview or from a company which has a 30-day satisfaction guarantee return policy.

VTech Web Site: http://www.vtech.com/products/elp/index.htm

SNET LINKS TO LEARNING INTERNET SAFETY GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Individual Grant Amounts:

- Public School Systems and private schools which serve more than 1,000 students are eligible for a maximum of $1,000
- Public School Systems and private schools which serve less than 1,000 students are eligible for a maximum of $500

Total Amount Available: $200,000

Definitions:

- School District – Accredited public school systems which have an individual Board of Education as identified in the Connecticut Education Directory
- Private School – Private schools as identified in the Connecticut Education Directory

Eligible Educational Institutions:

- K-12 public school districts and K-12 private schools within the SNET Connecticut serving area

Eligible Opportunities:

- Outreach Effort to Community and Parents
- What is the Internet?
- What are safety issues related to student use of the Internet?
- What is being done in the school to promote safe Internet use in the classroom?
- How can parents help ensure safe Internet access from home?
- Projects which demonstrate Internet Safety for all students
- Collaboratives with other schools to establish Internet safety initiatives
- Creation of community partnerships focused on Internet safety (School Board, Police, Municipality, PTA/PTO, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)
- Internet Management Software (Filter programs) – limited to 50% of grant amount

THE AOL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ITS YEAR 2000 INTERACTIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Call for Applications

WANTED: Education Innovators Seeking creative, innovative and motivated teachers, administrators, community leaders and parents who want to use the Internet to improve student achievement.

DATE: October 1, 1999 - January 17, 2000

WHAT: Interactive Education Initiative (IEI) Grants provide teams of educators and others seed money to develop and implement unique, hands-on projects that improve student performance through the integration of innovative technology into the learning environment.

Project teams can apply for grants of up to $7,500 to support highly creative ideas for using the Internet to improve student learning. In addition to K-12 teachers and administrators, teams can include parents and community leaders. Review criteria places special emphasis on proposals that have the potential to positively impact student learning, reach traditionally underserved children and communities, and involve innovation in using the online medium to create effective educational models. In addition to cash grants, grant recipients will be eligible to receive in-kind assistance and online support. The applications are available by calling (703) 265-1342 or can be downloaded and submitted via the Web at www.aolfoundation.org

WHY: Through the IEI Grant program, the AOL Foundation strives to maximize the benefits of interactive technology in K-12 learning environments, identify best practices for using technology to enhance student learning, and create an expanding network of educators and others dedicated to effective uses of technology.

Contact: The AOL Foundation 2000
AOL Way
Dulles, VA 20166
Phone: 703.265.1342

It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of long time CECA Board member, Steve Bombara. Steve was the computer teacher at Windham Middle School in Willimantic. He often presented at the CECA and NECC conferences.

CECA is entering its 20th year in 2000. We would appreciate your filling out this survey in order to help us with future decisions about CECA. Please return the survey to CECA, PO Box 1019, Branford, CT 06405 by January 15, 2000.

1. In what national technology organizations do you hold membership?

2. In what Connecticut organizations are you involved? Circle any that apply.

AFT   ATOMIC   CT Academy   CAPT   CAPSS

CAS   CT COLT   CEA   CEMA   CFSA

CRA   CASCD   CFEPE   PIMMS

Please list others:

3. How many years have you been a CECA member? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

4. Did you renew your CECA membership for 1999/2000?   Y   N

5. If not, why not?

6. Do you subscribe to the CECA listserv (CECA-L@aces.k12.ct.us)?   Y   N

7. Do you find CECA-L useful?   Y   N

8. Do you READ your CECA Newsletter   Y   N

9. Do you find the information in the CECA Newsletter helpful?   Y   N

10. Are you willing to write an article for the newsletter?   Y   N

11. What would you like to see in the newsletter?

12. Do you use the CECA (www.ceca-ct.org) Web site?   Y   N

13. Do you find the information in the CECA Web site helpful?   Y   N

14. Do you find the registration forms on the web helpful?   Y   N

15. Did you attend CECA '99   Y   N

16. If not check off the reasons listed below:

    a. No staff development funds   b. No substitutes available

    c. All staff dev is held in district   d. District limited number who could attend

    e. Presentations were not of interest to me

    f. Suggestions for future presentations:

17. Did you or your principal attend the March Principals' Conference?   Y   N

18. If so, did you find the information presented helpful?   Y   N

19. Have you ever been a presenter at a CECA conference?   Y   N

20. Would you be interested in being a presenter at a CECA conference?   Y   N

21. Would you like to have a monthly e-news sent directly to your email address?   Y   N

    Please enter email address: _____

22. Please add any comments that would be helpful to your CECA Board in planning future events.

SNET GRANT

Ineligible for Funding:

- Teacher stipends
- Travel Expenses
- Existing Services or License Fees
- Computer Hardware

Priority for funding:

Should requests for funding exceed available funds, proposals will be evaluated based upon the number of students impacted and overall value of efforts to promote safe use of the Internet in our schools. We are particularly interested in parental and community awareness programs, efforts that enable schools to manage Internet access, and co-operative programs among school systems.

Completed applications may be faxed to (203) 787-5547 or mailed to:

Corporate Contributions/Internet Safety Grant
SNET 9th Floor
310 Orange Street
New Haven, CT 06510
Grants will be announced by 1/31/00.

Deadline for all applications is 1/10/00 and must be received no later than 4:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE: *The expiration date of your CECA membership appears on the newsletter mailing label. A membership form can be found on the CECA Web site at www.ceca-ct.org/About*

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1999-2000**

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